



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,612	02/27/2004	Jon Washington	D-1214	9216
28995	7590	04/05/2005	EXAMINER	
RALPH E. JOCKE walker & jocke LPA 231 SOUTH BROADWAY MEDINA, OH 44256			PAIK, STEVE S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2876	

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/788,612

Applicant(s)

WASHINGTON ET AL.

Examiner

Steven S. Paik

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 45-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 45-65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20050402.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the Amendment filed January 11, 2005. The Amendment includes amended claims 1, 56, and 63.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 and 45-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Youn (US 6,592,118) in view of Shepherd et al. (US 6,484,938 B1).

Re claims 1, 56, and 63, Youn discloses a media cassette for an apparatus (ATM) comprising:

an automated banking machine cassette (media cassette in Fig. 3), wherein the cassette includes at least one media storage area (interior space; col. 4, ll. 31-33), wherein the cassette includes a movable partition (a push plate 4) operative to guide media (col. 4, ll. 32-43) to at least one media storage area, and wherein the cassette is operative to either automatically lock or automatically unlock the partition (col. 2, ll. 29-35) responsive to movement of the cassette relative to an automated banking machine.

Youn is silent about the cassette being operative to receive media guided thereinto the partition while in an automated banking machine.

Shepherd et al. disclose a self-service terminal (ATM ; col. 1, ll. 7-19) and a method of replenishing a cassette with valuable media items in the SST. The method further comprises the steps of: retaining the cassette in a position for receiving media items; receiving media items to be used in replenishing the cassette; validating the received media items; and loading the validated media items into the cassette to replenish the cassette. The step of validating the received media items includes checking characteristics of the received media items, so that the media items are rejected if they do not fulfill one or more predetermined acceptance criterion. Further according to the invention a self-service terminal system comprises: a user interface; a media receiver for receiving valuable media items; and a validator for checking the valuable media items received by the media receiver; characterized in that the terminal retains a cassette in a position for being replenished with valuable media items; and replenishes the cassette with validated valuable media items using a loading mechanism which moves between a top and bottom of the cassette. Shepherd et al. mitigate the need for high security in transporting currency both to and from an ATM, which is a substantial operating cost of an ATM.

In view of Shepherd et al., it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further employ a method and an apparatus for replenishing media cassette in an ATM in addition to the media cassette of Youn due to the fact that a cost saving replenishment of the media cassette can be accomplished without substantially changing the existing ATM operating procedures. Furthermore, the media being inserted can be verified before it is dispensed to customers using a bank note validator.

Re claim 45, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 1 stated above, wherein the cassette includes a partition lock arrangement

Art Unit: 2876

(latching pin 24), wherein the partition lock arrangement is operative to automatically lock the partition in a media directing position (col. 2, ll. 29-35).

Re claim 46, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 45 stated above, wherein the partition lock arrangement is operative to automatically lock the partition during removal of the cassette from an automated banking machine (Abstract).

Re claim 47, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 46 stated above, wherein the partition lock arrangement is operative to automatically unlock the partition during insertion of the cassette into an automated banking machine (col. 1, ll. 7-12).

Re claim 48, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 47 stated above, wherein the partition lock arrangement includes a movable projection button (locking release button 34), wherein the button is operative to engage a component of an automated banking machine, wherein the engagement is operative to move the button in a first direction, and wherein movement of the button in the first direction is operative to unlock the partition (col. 5, ll. 7-38).

Re claim 49, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 48 stated above, wherein movement of the button in a direction opposite the first direction is operative to lock the partition (col. 5, ll. 27-32).

Re claim 50, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 48 stated above, wherein the partition lock arrangement includes a torsion spring (return spring 38) and a lock arm (latching pin 24), wherein the torsion spring is connected to the

Art Unit: 2876

partition, wherein the lock arm is operatively movable with the projection button (34), wherein the torsion spring and a lock arm are engageable to lock the partition (col. 5, ll. 7-17).

Re claim 51, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 50 stated above, wherein the torsion spring includes an engagement hook, wherein the lock arm includes an engagement hook (Fig. 4 and 6), and wherein the hooks are operative to be placed in locking engagement to lock the partition (col. 5, ll. 7-17).

Re claim 52, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 50 stated above, wherein the cassette includes a partition drive lever (hook member 36) located at a first side of the cassette, wherein movement of the lever is operative to correspondingly move the partition.

Re claim 53, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 52 stated above, wherein the partition lock arrangement is located at a second side (inside) of the cassette, wherein the second side is opposite the first side (outside).

Re claim 54, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 53 stated above, wherein the torsion spring is operatively connected to the lever (Fig. 4 and 6).

Re claim 55, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the media cassette as recited in rejected claim 54 stated above, wherein the torsion spring biases the partition toward a media directing position (Fig. 4 and 6; col. 5, ll. 5-17).

Re claim 57, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the method as recited in rejected claim 56 stated above, further including performing both (b1) and (b2), wherein (b1) is

Art Unit: 2876

subsequent to (b2), and wherein b1) and b2) comprise the same automated banking machine (Abstract).

Re claim 58, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the method as recited in rejected claim 57 stated above, wherein the cassette includes a partition lock arrangement (latching pin) operative to lock the partition in a media directing position, wherein (b1) includes automatically locking the partition in a media directing position (col. 2, ll. 29-36).

Re claim 59, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the method as recited in rejected claim 58 stated above, wherein (b2) includes automatically unlocking the partition from a media directing position (col. 2, ll. 29-36).

Re claim 60, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the method as recited in rejected claim 59 stated above, wherein the partition lock arrangement includes a movable projection button (34), wherein the button is operative to engage a component of the automated banking machine, wherein the engagement is operative to move the button in a first direction, and wherein movement of the button in the first direction is operative to unlock the partition, and wherein b2) includes engagingly moving the button in the first direction (Fig. 4 and 6).

Re claim 61, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the method as recited in rejected claim 60 stated above, wherein the cassette includes a partition drive lever (hook member 36) located at a first side (outside) of the cassette, wherein movement of the lever is operative to correspondingly move the partition, and further including

(c) moving the partition responsive to movement of the lever.

Re claim 62, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the method as recited in rejected claim 61 stated above, wherein the partition lock arrangement is located at a second side (inside)

Art Unit: 2876

of the cassette, wherein the second side is opposite the first side, wherein the partition lock arrangement includes a torsion spring (38), wherein the torsion spring is connected to the partition, and further including

(d) biasing the partition toward a media directing position via the torsion spring (Fig. 6).

Re claim 64, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the method as recited in rejected claim 63 stated above, wherein the guide is automatically placed in a locked condition during removal of the cassette from an automated banking machine, wherein the guide is automatically placed in an unlocked condition during insertion of the cassette into an automated banking machine, wherein (a) includes automatically changing the locking status of the compartment guide (push plate 4) during one of removal or insertion of the cassette relative to an automated banking machine (col. 2, ll. 29-36).

Re claim 65, Youn in view of Shepherd et al. disclose the method as recited in rejected claim 64 stated above, further including (b) subsequent to (a), automatically changing the locking status of the compartment guide (push plate 4) during the other of removal or insertion of the cassette relative to an automated banking machine (col. 2, ll. 29-36).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 45-65 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The applicant's amendment includes features that can be found in a newly found reference, Shepherd et al. (US 6,484,938 B1). The teachings of Youn in view of Shepherd et al. have been fully discussed above.

In light of above discussion, claims 1 and 45-65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven S. Paik whose telephone number is 571-272-2404. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri (5:30am-2:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

Art Unit: 2876

system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Steven S. Paik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2876

ssp